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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945.

TO THE HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MILNROW.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my seventeenth Annual Report of the Health of the Urban District of Milnrow, and shall commence by placing before you the General Statistics from which this Report is formed.

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1945.	131	54	77
Deaths in 1945.	111	50	61
Deaths of Infants under one year.	9	6	3
Still Births.	4	2	2

Rates per 1000 of Population.

	Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Cancer Death Rate.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1000 births.	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 live and still births.
1945	17.0	14.4	0.52	2.86	68	Nil.
1944	16.8	12.6	0.13	2.48	15	7.75
Mean of five years (1940-1944)	15.1	13.4	0.30	1.72	42	3.10
Five years Average (difference 1940-1944)	+1.9	+1.0	+0.22	+1.14	+26	--3.10
Previous year (difference)	+0.2	+1.8	+0.39	+0.38	+53	-7.46

Population.

The estimated population of 1945 is 7671 with an acreage of 5194 acres. The census of 1931 gave the total population as 8,623. This census showed the number of inhabited houses to be 2,574, and the number of families or separate occupiers 2,575.

The rateable Value of the District is £49,638 and the sum represented by a Penny Rate £194.

The Population is industrial and is occupied mainly with cotton spinning, the engineering trade and the wool trade, none of which has any peculiar influence on the public health.

Birth Rate.

In 1945 the live births belonging to this District were 131, males 54, females 77.

The birth rate for 1945 was	17.0
The birth rate for 1944 was	16.8
The increase in 1945 on the previous year was	0.2
The birth rate for England and Wales in 1945 was	16.1

Death Rate.

In 1945 the deaths belonging to this District were 111, males 50, females 61.

The death rate for 1945 was	14.4
The death rate for 1944 was	12.6
The increase in 1945 on the previous year was	+1.8
The death rate for England and Wales in 1945 was	11.4
In 1945 the registered births exceeded the deaths by	20.0
In 1944 the registered births exceeded the deaths by	32.0

During the year 39 people belonging to the District died outside it.

Birch Hill Hospital.	29
Rochdale Infirmary.	9
Ranfield Pulmona ry Hospital.	1
	39

The causes of death were:-

Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	4
Influenza.	1
Cancer.	22
Intra cranial vascular lesions.	8
Heart diseases.	25
Other diseases of circulatory system.	8
Bronchitis.	12
Pneumonia.	3
Other respiratory diseases.	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	3
Other digestive diseases.	1
Nephritis.	4
Premature births.	3
Congenital malformation birth injury.	5
Road traffic accidents.	3
Other violent causes.	2
All other causes.	6
	111

Infantile Mortality.

During 1944 there were nine deaths of Infants under one year, the causes of death being:-

Marasmus.	1
Prematurity.	3
Spina bifida.	2
Congenital atelectasis.	1
Cardiac failure.	2
	9

The Infantile Mortality Rate in 1945 was	68
The Infantile Mortality Rate in 1944 was	15
The increase in 1945 on the previous year was	52
The Maternal Mortality during 1945 was	Nil.
The Maternal Mortality during 1944 was	1
The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales was	46

Zymotic Diseases.

Diseases.	Cases.	Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	27	24	0
Pneumonia.	1	0	0
Measles.	70	0	0
Whooping Cough.	1	0	0
Tuberculosis.	7	4	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	0	0

There were 109 cases with 3 deaths.

The epidemic death rate in 1945 was 0.39 per 1,000.
The epidemic death rate in 1944 was 0.52 per 1,000.
The death rate for Pulmonary T.B. in 1945 was 0.52.
The death rate for Pulmonary T.B. in 1944 was 0.13.
The death rate for Cancer in 1945 was 2.86
The death rate for Cancer in 1944 was 2.48

There were 135 children immunised during the year 95 pre school children and 40 school children.

Housing Statistics for 1944.

Number of Houses erected during the Year:-

by other bodies or persons.	None.
(a) With State assistance.	None.
(b) Number in course of erection under Council Scheme.	None.

I Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1a Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	298
b Number of inspections made for the purpose.	306
2a Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) (above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations 1925 & 1932.	Nil.
b Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	None.
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	98

II Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.	88

III Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

a. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served req uiring repairs.	None.

IV Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

a. (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year.	3
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein.	6
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein.	26
b.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	6
c. (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	6
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases.	38

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

O.R.I. LOVE, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Urban District Council of Milnrow.

Gentlemen,

I have very much pleasure in submitting to you my First Annual Report of the sanitary circumstances of the District. The Report contains work carried out by my predecessor, Mr. T. Warrington, for the period January to September and by myself from September to December.

The major problem in the district at present is the same that confronts all local authorities; housing shortage.

Now the war is over and demobilisation is taking place the problem is being aggravated. Families are being reunited and many of them are having to reside with their parents. The situation is being kept under constant observation. Efforts are being made to prevent overcrowding and where possible relieve it. Until new houses are erected it is essential that we should try to utilise the available accommodation to the best advantage.

On investigation of the complaints received regarding overcrowding, the number of occupants were found, in many cases, to be within the permitted number. It is not generally appreciated by the public that living rooms are taken into account in arriving at the number of persons allowed to occupy the house, also that the permitted number is shown in the rent book.

Owing to the war and housing shortage, closure and demolition of property has been suspended and the general repair of houses has perforce been reduced to a minimum with a consequent deterioration of property.

The building of houses is now taking place and receiving priority for labour and materials. Owing to this the difficulty of carrying out repairs and improvements is still acute and it would appear that it will be a considerable time before we are able to improve the general condition of existing houses. Until such time arrives only repairs of an urgent nature can be carried out.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 399. Of this total 101 were inspected owing to the occurrence of infectious disease. The remaining 298 inspections were made on account of general defects, overcrowding, dirty condition, etc.

The number of overcrowded houses at the end of the year was 3 with a total of 6 families comprising of 26 persons. There were 6 new cases found during the year and 6 cases relieved involving 38 persons.

It was found that the drainage from houses in New Hey Road and Fairbank Yard was not connected to the sewer. The drainage system for this property has now been connected to the sewer.

Other inspections made are shown in Table "A" and nuisances abated in Table "B".

There were 296 informal notices issued and it was not found necessary to issue any statutory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

The main supply is provided by Rochdale and Oldham Corporations and is a direct supply to the houses. There are no stand pipes in the district. Of the 2,900 houses, 2,693 are supplied from the mains. The houses not receiving mains water are those scattered throughout the district where a mains supply is not available and are mainly farms and farm cottages.

RAT INFESTATION.

The rat population of the district does not appear to be large and only occasional complaints are received of rat infestation. In these cases baiting has been carried out and there has not been any complaint or evidence of further infestation.

SCAVENGING.

The sanitary accommodation at the end of the year was:-

Fresh water closets.	2405
Waste water closets.	73
Pail closets.	233
Ashbins.	2090

During the year 8 pail closets at Birch Mills were converted to W.C's. This mill is below the level of the sewer and plant to deal with the sewage was installed.

1 W.C., and 1 pail closet were converted to W.C's. and 1 additional W.C. installed.

167 ashbins and 22 sanitary pails have been renewed.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

189 visits were paid to bakehouses and 75 visits paid to factories.

MILK.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 84 cowkeepers in the district, of these 56 are dairy farms. During the year 392 visits were paid to farms. Tighe Barn Farm has been connected to the Rochdale Corporation water mains.

There are 3 farms licensed to produce "accredited" milk and it is to be regretted that the milk from these farms is not supplied into the district. It is to be hoped that more of the farms in the area will apply for a licence to produce graded milk.

The main source of supply is from local farms, although there is a quantity of "pasteurised" milk retailed.

The Lancashire County Council are the Food and Drugs authorities for the district and take all samples of food. They have, however, delegated authority to me to take samples of milk from schools and "accredited" farms.

These samples are taken for T.B. from schools, and for T.B., Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests from "accredited" farms.

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING YEAR.

	No. Taken.	T.B.		Meth. Blue.		Coliform Test.	
"Accredited" Farms.		N.	P.	S.	N.S.	S.	N.S.
	15	10	-	10	4	10	4

Two samples taken for T.B. went wrong at the laboratory, the guinea pigs dying before completion of test. Three samples were taken for Methy Blue and Coliform Test, one only for T.B.

One sample of milk from an "accredited" farm taken in Rochdale proved to be positive and was dealt with by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. One cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

There were 7 samples of milk taken from farms in the district for T.B., all proved to be negative.

SCHOOL MILK.

Samples for T.B. only.

9 samples were taken, 7 were negative and 2 positive.

The 2 positive cases were dealt with by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and 2 cows slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

There was 1 sample of milk taken of the milk supplied to the Day Nursery, and this proved negative.

ICE CREAM.

Premises at Lanebottom are now being used for the manufacture of ice cream. Alterations have been carried out and the premises are clean and satisfactory. The premises are being kept under supervision.

FOOD

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human food and have been disposed of:-

26	lbs.	Butter.
3	tins	Corned Beef.
3	"	Tomato Paste.
9	"	Pilchards.
9	"	Pork lunch meat.
6	"	Pork and sausage meat.
1	"	Ox Tongue.
3	"	Meat and Vegetable.
178	lbs.	Wet Fish.

INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

There were 101 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.	27
Measles.	70
Whooping Cough.	1
Acute Pneumonia.	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1
	101

It will be noted that during the year no case of diphtheria was notified.

Of the 24 cases of scarlet fever, all were moved to the Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection was carried out at 27 houses with formaldehyde vapour.

There have been 2 smallpox contacts in the district. These have been members of H.M. Forces who have been returning from abroad. The contacts have been visited and kept under observation.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration in the exercise of my duties as Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. NUNN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE "A"

INSPECTIONS

Investigations for Infectious Disease (Notifiable).	101
Number of houses inspected.	298
Re-inspections, calls, etc.	306
Inspections of Bakehouses.	189
Inspections of Factories and Workshops.	75
Inspections of Cowhouses.	392
Inspections of Pig Carcases.	20
Drains inspected.	127
Miscellaneous.	162
	1760

TABLE "B"

NUISANCES ABATED

Overcrowded houses.	6
Houses cleansed.	10
Closets cleansed.	32
Drains repaired.	46
Drains reconstructed.	32
New Drains.	12
Flushpipe joints to W.C. basins repaired.	54
W.C. cisterns repaired.	33
Sink waste pipes repaired.	21
Inspection chambers built.	4
Trapped gullies fixed.	12
Flooded cellars.	8
Dilapidated closet pails renewed.	22
Dilapidated ashbins renewed.	167
Pail closets converted to fresh water closets.	9
Additional water closets provided.	1
Waste water closet converted to fresh water closet.	1
Choked water closets.	40
Choked sink drains.	36
Outbuildings repaired.	17
Rainwater pipes repaired	26
Eavesgutters repaired.	42
Roofs repaired.	53
W.C. roofs repaired.	35
Miscellaneous.	68
	787